

pending security-review case, from DOD,
involving OSS material

Tues., 26 Sept. 61

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Monday, Sept. 25, tel call from [redacted] FI Staff (SSU office),
in absence of [redacted], regarding pending request from Defense
Dept., Security Review, dated 30 Aug., sent by Col. Grogan to
Security Office on Sept. 5 and, by Security, to FI, on 9 September.

Case involves some 20 excerpts, 17 or 18 of them purported
excerpts from OSS records, 1943-44, relating to intelligence [redacted]
[redacted]'s downfall. The excerpts [redacted] belong to one Prof. [redacted]
[redacted], an "unofficial researcher" who has had access to Army files, presumably.
The OSS items have been checked in OSS Archives, he says, and
are quite accurate quotes from OSS "Disseminations" based on OSS
messages from London, [redacted] and Switzerland. The chief
discrepancy, he said, is the classification: most of the excerpts
are graded only "Confidential," while the documents (in our custody)
are "Secret" in almost all cases.

[redacted] asks, for FI and for Security Office [redacted],
whether we could check with DOD: (1) does DOD know whether
these documents [redacted] have been downgraded to "Confidential", and (2)
did Prof. [redacted] have a clearance to use the files.

I called Col. Colkitt, in DOD Sec. Review (handling this case),
to express regrets on delay in replying, and asked him [redacted] above
questions. He said that he, too, was mystified about this case: That
it originated in Army Public Information, and he had not been able
to find out about the [redacted] subject [redacted] but understood that
a Mr. Jack Mantle, in Army OPI, ext. 74122, might be able to help us.
(I did not pursue this further, beyond Col. Colkitt.)

Col. Colkitt also volunteered that these excerpts, containing also
refs to State and FBI (in some mil. intell. excerpts other than the
OSS excerpts), had been referred to State and FBI, and he believed
there would be objections from them, [redacted] when their review was
completed.

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Subsequently, on Tues., 26 Sept., [redacted] of FI came by to
see me with the [redacted] excerpts themselves, together with the records
from OSS archives, to [redacted] in his collation of the two sets. He said
that Security Office [redacted] is primarily concerned with discrepancies
in classification. I said that, in addition, the excerpts also
revealed: (1) OSS evaluation symbols, e.g. Evaluation "B", etc.; (2)
OSS sources abroad, e.g., London and Swiss missions, and "a [redacted]
newspaper..."; and (3) the fact that each note attributed a bit of
intelligence to "OSS", involved, in each case, the existing directives
and policies [redacted] against disclosure of sources and methods.

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I urged [redacted] [redacted] to get together with
Security as expeditiously as possible, to complete their recommendations
on this case, for dispatch back to Col. Grogan.